(b) and (c) A number of units processing fruits and vegetables particularly those manufacturing juices, juice concentrates, squashes, and jams can process oranges. However, there are four large scale units in the country located in Sikkim, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Punjab who produce citrus juices and juice concentrates including the one unit of Maharashtra Agro-Industry Corporation Ltd. at Nagpur. The production of orange products by the fruits and vegetable processing units is not monitored separately. Adoption of new techniques by the units for orange processing is dependent on the economic viability of such processes.

National Policy in Food Processing

218. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce national policy on Food Processing;

(b) if so, details of the main features of the policy;

(c) details of projects, schemes to be initiated during the Eighth Plan period; and

(d) details of employment growth and export earning projections as a result of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Policy will address issues relating to accelerated growth and development of food processing industries with a view to augment employment opportunities and incomes both in rural and urban areas, reduce post-harvest losses, establish productive linkages between industry and the farmers, increase exports of processed foods and generally support the productive efforts of agriculture and allied activities.

(c) and (d) The summary of schemes formulated for implementation during the Eighth Plan is given in the enclosed statement. (see below). It is estimated that the direct and indirect employment during the Eighth Plan period will increase by one million man years; and the export of processed food will increase from the present level of about Rs. 2500 Crores to Rs. 6000 Crores by the end of the Plan.

Statement

SUMMARY OF PLAN SCHEMES

A. GRAIN PROCESSING SECTOR.

1. Post Harvest Technology Centre, IIT, Kharagpur.
2. Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur.
3. Regional Extension Service Centres.
4. Research and Development Schemes.
5. Rice Milling Machinery and Allied Equipments Testing Centres.
6. Modernisation of Rice Mills.
7. Setting up of Food Engineering Centre.

B. FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROCESSING.

1. Scheme for setting up food processing and training centres in the rural areas.
2. Scheme for assistance for establishment of F and VP units.
3. Scheme for strengthening backward linkages between processors and growers. Testing Centres.
4. Scheme for assistance for development of infrastructure for mushroom cultivation and processing.
5. Assistance for development and processing of Hops.

6. Generic advertising on processed foods and for providing marketing assistance.

7. R & D in F & VP.

C. MEAT & POULTRY PROCESSING.

1. Establishment of National Livestock Products Development Council.

2. Development of pork processing.

3. Development of sheep goat and rabbit meat procesing.

4. Development of Poultry & egg processing.

5. Development of Buffalo meat processing.

6. Development of infrastructure for storage and transport of meat for export.

7. Development of marketing facility.

8. Development of trained manpower for meat processing industry.

9. R&D for meat processing and specialised packaging.

D. FISHERIES & FISH PROCESSING.

1. Assistance for participation in deep sea fishing and processing.

2. Grant-in-aid providing interest subsidy on loan for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessel.

3. Assistance for diversified fishing.

4. Scheme for effective implementation of MZI Act by providing funds for installation of communication facilities for the Coast Guard.

5. Scheme for setting up of cold-chain.

6. Scheme for tuna and other fish processing.

7. Assistance to National Marine Fisheries Development Board.

8. Fishery Survey of India.

E. CONSUMER INDUSTRY

1. R&D scheme on soyabean products and Indian traditional foods and packaging.

2. Investment in Public Sector Enterprices.

(a) MFIL

(b) NERAMAC

F. SECRETARIAT ECONOMIC SERVICES.

1. Scheme for strengthening of nodal agencies.

2. Scheme for strengthening of Directorate of F&VP for information, training education and quality system for development of F&VP.

3. Scheme for participation in National and international exhibitions.

4. Scheme for promoting studies in food processing.

5. Scheme for performance awards in Food Processing Industries.

Banning pre-natal sex test

219. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government shortly propose to forward a Bill banning pre-natal sex test;

(b) if so, when it is proposed to be done; and

(c) whether it intend providing severe penalty for those indulging in pre-natal sex test; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) A bill entitled "THE PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES (REGULATION AND PREVENTION OF